three years (for which figures are available for the value of losses) due to pests, diseases and rodents, etc.;

(b) how much of this loss was shared by the farmers, Government and the insurance companies in each State; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to improve the situation in this regard and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) There is no mechanism to account for the loss of foodgrains in value due to pests, diseases and rodents etc., as also to assess the share of this loss by farmers, Government and insurance agencies in the country.

(c) The public agencies have been able to minimise the losses by adopting scientific methods of storage practices covering improved godowns, prophylactic and curative treatments of the stored produce, use of dunnage, periodical inspection, aeration etc.

The Department of Food have launched a country-wide Save Grain Campaign for educating, motivating and pursuading the farmers to adopt scientific storage practices. It has been noticed that losses are significantly lower, wherever farmers adopt the recommended practices.

Bisra Stone Mines at Birmitrapur, Orissa

2198. SHRI GANESHWAR KUSUM: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the plight of the workers of M/s. Bisra lime stone mines Birmitrapur in Orissa;

(b) if so, what are the steps taken to take over the mines and save the workers from possible retrenchment; and

(c) what are the details of the steps taken to remove the financial crisis of that lime stone mines?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government are exploring the possibilities of stepping up sales from the mines in order to enable production to be increased to improve the financial viability of the Company. No retrenchment is contemplated.

Soil conservation measures in Orissa

2199. SHRI GANESHWAR KUSUM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether soil conservation measures have been taken up by Government in the inter-State river valley areas of Orissa;

(b) if so, what are the details of the soil conservation measures during the last three years; and

(c) how much amount has been spent on the soil conservation measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects (RVP)" is being implemented in inter-State River Valley areas of Hirakud, Machkund/Sileru and Rangali-Mandira catchments in Orissa.

(b) and (c) Soil conservation measures implemented under this scheme consist of contour/graded bunding, levelling/terracing, gully control works, planting of utility trees on arable lands, besides afforestation and pasture development undertaken on

non-arable lands. Light engineering works such as construction of water harvesting/silt detention structures, Nalah/stream erosion control structures are also being done. The details of progress of works during the last three years are given below:—

Year	Physical achievement (in hectares)	Expenditure (Rupees in lakhs)
1984-85 . . .	7350	126.25
1985-86 . . .	8770	166.94
1986-87 . .	9661	181.85

Adoption of New Strategy for Development of Agriculture

2200. SHRI GANESHWAR KUSUM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have adopted a new strategy for the development of agriculture during the Seventh Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, what are the details of the strategy adopted in Orissa for the development of agriculture; and

(c) what are the details of the Central assistance given to Orissa under different centrally-sponsored schemes for this purpose till now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

The broad elements of strategy during the Seventh Plan will be (i) substantial increase in area under high-yielding varieties; (ii) increased consumption of key inputs like chemical fertilisers; (iii) strengthening of institutional arrangements for timely delivery of inputs of assured quality in adequate quantities; (iv) intensification of pests and disease surveillance arrangements and timely control operations; (v) raising of cropping intensity and productivity particularly in the irrigated areas; (vi) reclamation and development of old tallow lands, saline and alkaline lands, water-logged areas and coastal saline areas; (vii) other soil conservation measures to improve the quality of land or to check its degradation; (viii) provision of insurance cover to crops; (ix) assuring of remunerative prices to the farmers; (x) strengthening of extension network on the pattern of T&V system for quick and effective transfer of technology to the farmers; (xi) cross-breeding of cattle with exotic dairy breeds; (xii) rearing of sheep and goats to augment the production of wool and meat; (xiii) exploitation of Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) by promotion of investment in deep sea fishing; (xiv) expansion of diversified coastal fishing besides introducing new motorised and mechanised fishing craft; (xv) intensive fish farming in tanks and ponds through the Fish Farmers Development Agencies, etc.

(b) The Government of Orissa proposes to adopt a strategy to (i) stabilise agricultural production in unirrigated and rainfed areas through adoption of latest technology for dryland/rainfed farming; (ii) achieve increased production in the irrigated areas through adoption of multi-crop system with emphasis on optimum utilisation of irrigation potential particularly in command areas; (iii) give concerted attention to ensure timely, easy and adequate supply of agricultural inputs like seeds, fertilisers, implements, plant protection chemicals, credit and, above all, the right technology; (iv) intensify the monitoring of the supply of the above inputs at different levels during the Seventh Plan period; (v) step up milk and egg production through genetic improvement of livestock; (vi) increase the production of fodder seeds for intensive fodder cultivation; (vii) improve animal